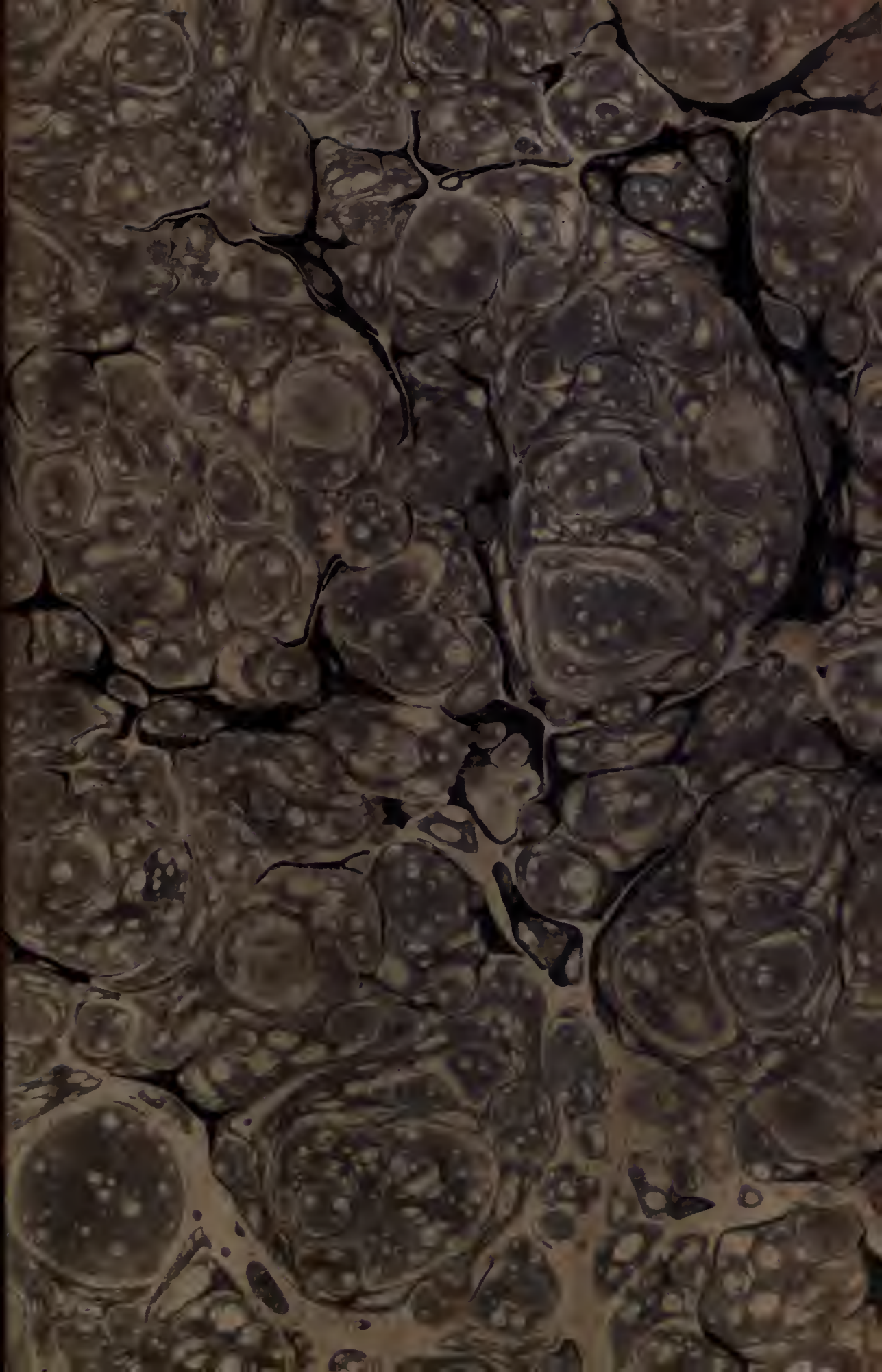

CHILDREN'S BOOK
COLLECTION

LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES

A Whitaker Asylum

33 lw

THE VOYAGE. P. 13.

THE CAVERN. P. 20.

THE LITTLE WANDERERS;

OR,

INTERESTING ADVENTURES

OF

TWO PRETTY ORPHANS.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR J. HARRIS AND SON,
CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YARD.

1820.

Printed by S. & R. BENTLEY,
Dorset Street, Fleet Street, London.

TO THE

LITTLE MISSES AND MASTERS

OF

GREAT BRITAIN,

THIS

HISTORY OF TWO PRETTY WANDERERS

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY THEIR SINCERE FRIEND,

AND HEARTY WELL-WISHER,

R. J.

PREFACE.

THERE needs but little apology for my offering to the perusal of every pretty Miss and Master a book of this kind, its principal motive being both to amuse and instruct them, and thereby make them cheerful and wise.

In the characters of our Little Wanderers, they will see what a terrible thing it is to be left an orphan, and how thankful little children ought to be, who are so happy as to have good parents to watch over and admonish them.

By imitating Master Graceful and his sister, they will learn how to bear trifling disappointments, and be above crying after cakes, fruits, or any such trifles; nor, when they have them, will they refuse kindly to divide them among their companions.

Should my Little Wanderers contribute to inspire sentiments of this nature in the bosoms of my pretty readers, I shall think myself happy in having thus contributed my mite to the stock of Juvenile Education.

THE

LITTLE WANDERERS.

CHAPTER I.

Do not imagine, my pretty readers, that my Little Wanderers are characters of a naughty complexion. They were not like those ill-disposed children who run away from their parents to mix with the idle and wicked. No, all their unhappy wanderings were the result of unavoidable misfortunes, and such as I hope none of my pretty readers will ever experience, or like them be doomed to struggle with.

Mr. Graceful, the father of my Little Wanderers, was a wealthy merchant, who had acquired an ample fortune with an unblemished character; but had the misfortune to lose his wife, who left him two young children, Miss Maria and Master Tommy. Mr. Graceful was so much grieved at the loss of his wife, that he died soon after of a broken heart.

What a sad thing it is for little children to lose their parents at so tender an age; for Master Tommy was only eight, and Miss Maria only six years of age!

Mr. Graceful dying very rich, bequeathed the greater part of his fortune to his two pretty children, and left

them in such hands as he doubted not would take care of them, and see them brought up in a manner suitable to their fortune.

Money, to be sure, is very desirable; but it often leads us into the most dangerous errors, when we endeavour to acquire it by improper means. My pretty readers, I do not mean that you should despise money, since nothing in this life is to be got without it; and when we have it, we ought not to throw it away foolishly. All I mean to advise is, never covet it so much, as to stoop to dishonest means to acquire it.

These two pretty orphans were put to

school, where, by the sweetness and affability of their tempers, they soon became beloved by every one. Miss Maria was instructed in all the branches of female education; and Master Tommy was taught every thing that might qualify him for trade and commerce. Matters went on in this manner, till Master Tommy reached the twelfth year of his age, and Miss Maria her tenth. Their little hearts had not yet learned to sigh at the shocks of fortune; but the day was now hastily approaching, in which they were to feel all its severities.

The person to whose care they had been intrusted proved a cruel and wicked guardian. As the orphans were now

growing up to years of discretion, he began to fear an enquiry might be set on foot, as to the use he made of the fortunes of these pretty creatures. In order to avoid this, he determined on the cruel resolution of finding an excuse to send them to the West Indies, where he doubted not but he could easily find the means to dispose of them as he pleased, and then seize on their estates as his own.

In order to cover his wicked designs, he fitted them out in the most elegant manner, pretending that they were going to see one of their relations, who was then Governor of Barbadoes. The cabin of a large ship was fitted up for their reception, and all kinds of fresh provision and

live stock were put on board, in order that our pretty orphans might want nothing on their passage.

Miss Maria and Master Tommy took an affectionate leave of all their school-fellows, when there was a general concert of tears and sobbings. Every thing being ready for their departure, they were put on board; but little did they think what were the wicked designs of their treacherous guardian. However, the sequel of this history will shew that there is a Divine Being who penetrates into all our actions, and who frequently frustrates the attempts of the wicked, and preserves the innocent from the hand of the destroyer.

CHAPTER II.

Just before the ship sailed, there came on board an elderly person, who agreed with the captain for his passage to Barbadoes; his name was Senex. Though the hair of his head was as white as snow, yet he had no wrinkles on his face, and his eyes darted with all the fire of youth. There was something in his countenance that struck every one who beheld him with awe, and yet this was accompanied with such an inexpressible sweetness of look, as equally commanded reverence and esteem.

Our two pretty orphans were exceedingly taken with him, and particularly attached themselves to him; nor was he less pleased when he found they listened with attention to the wise discourses he held. He was one of those who had read much, and seen a great deal of the world. "My pretty creatures, (said Senex to them,) you must accustom yourselves in the early parts of your lives, to bear fatigues and disappointments. You are now exposed to the dangers of the wide ocean, and there is no certainty that storms and tempests will not arise, which may not only injure the vessel we are in, but even sink it to the bottom of the sea."

They had not been many days clear of

the land, when the sky began to be clouded, and the wind coming from the West, gradually increased till it blew a most furious hurricane. The thunder began to roll in terrible claps, the winds howled dreadfully, the lightnings darted incessant fires, and the ship laboured up and down the mountainous billows of the troubled ocean.

The poor orphans were now terribly frightened; but Master Tommy concealed his fears as well as he could, and did all in his power to comfort and cherish his poor sister. But their old friend Senex was their greatest comforter: "You see, my dear children, (said he,) how soon you have reason to recollect what I but lately was observing to you. Though the winds

howl, the thunders roar, and the lightning seems to set the whole ocean on fire, yet God dwells in the midst of those furious elements, and will be your protector."

Tommy and his sister went to prayers, and while they were kneeling down together, a sea broke over the ship, and forcing its way into the room in which they then were, half filled it with water. Tommy, however, more alarmed for his sister than himself, caught her in his arms, and Senex coming to their assistance, got them out of their present danger, and conducted them between decks.

The storm continued to increase, the sails were shivered to rags, the cords all broken,

the masts split into pieces, and the water gushed in at every part of the ship. The men laboured at the pumps till even the pumps themselves were broken, and then the ship was given up for lost, and every one took a formal farewell of his messmates, expecting every moment would be their last. It is hardly possible to conceive a situation more terrific than that of impending shipwreck: all hope of human assistance despaired of, its horrors can only be assuaged by the consolations of religion.

In the midst of this dreadful situation, old Senex alone seemed calm and undisturbed, sitting in one corner of the ship, and embracing in his arms the two lovely

orphans. Master Tommy and his sister were astonished to find, that while their friend Senex was with them, they were destitute of fear or apprehension, and their little hearts glowed with a courage which they never felt in his absence.

The ship continued to float on the waves and going at a great rate, being hurried on by the furious winds, till the coast of Africa came in view. Destruction now seemed to be inevitable, as they were on all sides surrounded with rocks, against one of which the ship soon drove, and presently after went to pieces. The officers and crew went to the bottom; but Senex, with an uncommon fortitude and presence of mind, caught the lovely orphans in his

arms, and springing from the side of the ship, as it was sinking, landed upon a part of the rock, in a kind of cavern, where neither the winds nor waves could reach them.

CHAPTER III.

SCARCELY had they got solid footing on the rock, when the ship separated, and split in numberless pieces. Miss Maria could not help crying, when she found that all her fine clothes were gone to the bottom; and this so much engrossed her thoughts, that the idea of perishing with hunger where she was at present, never entered her mind.

"Grieve not, my pretty Maria, (said Senex,) for the loss of a few gaudy orna-

ments. It is thus you young ones occupy your thoughts on trifles, while you overlook matters of the greatest consequence. Thank God that he is pleased to permit you (for nothing is done without his permission) to be cast away on this naked, barren, and frightful rock; for, had a favourable gale carried you to Barbadoes, you would never more have seen your native country. Your wicked guardian had plotted your destruction, in order to become possessed of your fortunes."

Though the dear orphans could not help crying at the treachery of their guardian, yet they fell on their knees and thanked God for his goodness to them, and promised in future to submit cheerfully to his

will; then rising, they threw their arms round the neck of their dear friend Senex, whom they now began to consider as something more than human. They begged he would not desert them, and they promised the most unlimited submission to his will.

"My dear orphans, (said Senex,) be assured I will not desert you, till I see you safe again on your native island. But remember, I place this injunction on you, that you do not suffer either calamities or prosperity to divert your minds from the grand object of returning to your native country. The pomp and parade you may, perhaps, meet with in some countries, may induce you to sink into indolence and

luxury, and make you forgetful of your native country. The pleasures and luxuries of this life are often more fatal to youth than even storms and tempests, or the furious billows of the ocean."

These discourses of the wise Senex filled the bosoms of our youthful orphans with serenity and cheerfulness. The storm abated, the clouds dispersed, and the face of the ocean became as smooth as glass. Master Tommy and his sister began to grow hungry; but they were afraid to complain to Senex, because they perceived no means by which any refreshments could be procured. Senex, however, knew even their very thoughts, and without appearing to know their wants, "Come, my dear

children, (said he,) it is time, after all this fatigue, that we should have some kind of refreshment: before we quitted the ship, I took care to fill my pockets with such a supply as I hope will last us till we get from this rock."

So saying, he pulled out of one pocket a large supply of the legs and wings of the nicest fowls; and out of the other pocket, a bottle of liquor, so enlivening and refreshing, that it even tempted them to be merry. The beams of the sun darted delightfully on the ocean, the western zephyrs wafted the sweetest gales, and all the scaly inhabitants of the ocean leaped in and out of their element for joy.

In this manner they lived upwards of three weeks, during all which time, it appeared very astonishing to our young orphans, that the pocket of Senex seemed inexhaustible, and every day produced something new and nice; and the bottle, though they had drunk out of it so many times, was still full. Though this appeared as a miracle to them, yet they were afraid to take any notice of it to Senex.

Though they had no bed of down to lie on, they found what as fully answered that purpose. They crawled to the summit of the rock, and there gathered moss and sea-weed, which they conveyed to their cavern, and on this they nightly reposed. Three times every day they offered up their

prayers to God, leaving the time of their deliverance to his will and pleasure. In the intervals of time, Senex taught them lessons of moral philosophy, and thus made this barren cavern the best academy our young orphans had ever been taught in.

THE CANOE. P. 27.

MARIA CARRIED ACROSS THE DESERT. P. 34.

CHAPTER IV.

After having been inhabitants of this cave more than three weeks, they were one morning waked by the sound of some paddles in the water, when, rising from their beds, they saw two Indians seated in a canoe, and beckoning to them to come and get into it. Though the Wanderers could not have any knowledge of their language, yet their friend Senex made the Indians perfectly understand by his motions what their situation was: so in they got.

Master Tommy and his sister were at

first a little alarmed at the strange figure of the Indians; but what alarmed them much more was, that these people were said to eat one another. However, as they had their friend Senex with them, they feared nothing; for they now considered him as capable of protecting them from every danger, and of enabling them to surmount every difficulty.

As soon as they landed, they were conducted through thickets, which afforded the sweetest fragrance; orange and lemon trees growing wild in every part. After a walk of about an hour, they arrived at a hut, which was the habitation of the two Indians who had brought them on shore. Here the Indians kindly refreshed them

with the choicest kinds of fruits they possessed; as also with some fish, and a little venison; but the cookery was such as our young orphans had not been used to.

While our Wanderers were thus refreshing themselves, some of the Indians were employed in cutting down large boughs of trees, of which they formed a kind of hut, and covered it with plantain leaves.

Beds were likewise made of the same kind of leaves, and the hut was divided by reeds into two partitions, the larger one for Senex and Master Tommy, and the smaller one for Miss Maria.

The Indians kindly furnished them with

the best of every thing they could procure, and Tommy accompanied them on their fishing and hunting parties, always bringing the best of every thing he got to his dear sister, who, on her part, taught the Indian women many branches of European domestic economy. As to Senex, he found that the Indians procured their corn from other states, at a very great distance, without knowing how to raise it themselves. He therefore set them about cultivating their land in the best manner their rough implements would admit of; and before he quitted them, he had the pleasure to see a rich harvest crown his endeavours with success.

After having been near a year and an

half in this place, the wise Senex observed that the young orphans began to be reconciled to the dress, manners, customs, and amusements of the Indians, and, in consequence, grew very indifferent about returning to their own country. "How easily (said Senex to them) are young people seduced by ease and pleasure! You seem already to have forgotten your own country, and would rather live here than run the hazard of facing new dangers."

Master Tommy blushed, and Miss Maria hung down her head. At last, Tommy assured Senex, that they were ready to partake with him of any new difficulties or dangers that might attend them in the endeavour to regain their native country;

but Tommy observed, that they were some thousand miles from home, in a strange country, in which there was little probability of ever meeting with any European ship.

"Leave that to me," said Senex, who immediately began to make preparations for their departure. The Indians were exceedingly sorry to part with strangers who had been of such infinite service to their little state. Senex was now informed that they would have three hundred miles to travel, a great part of which was over a barren sandy desert, before they could get to the banks of the Great River, as they called it, on which was an European factory.

They accordingly set out, and hundreds of the Indians accompanied them, out of respect, till they reached the entrance of the great desert. Here the Indians took an affectionate leave of them, loaded them with every kind of provision they were capable of carrying on the backs of two mules, and gave them the best directions they could for their future journey. You must not suppose, my pretty readers, that those whom they call savages are devoid of every feeling of generosity and humanity, since some of them possess a nobleness of heart that is unknown to many who call themselves polished and refined.

CHAPTER V.

The Indians carried Miss Maria in a sort of chair, supported by poles resting on their shoulders, till they reached the entrance of the great desert. As soon as the Indians left them, Tommy's heart began to fail him, not only on account of the great difficulties and dangers of the journey they had now undertaken, but still more so for his dear sister, for whose safety he was considerably alarmed. He threw his arms round his sister's neck, and kissed her tenderly.

"Be not disheartened, my sweet Wanderers, (said Senex to them,) but leave every thing to Providence; for that good God who rescued you from the fury of the tempestuous billows of the ocean, and preserved you in the cave of a barren and naked rock, will not suffer you to perish in these wild and hideous deserts, though few but savage beasts inhabit them."

Our pretty Wanderers always found that the words of Senex as much roused their spirit and resolution, as if they had suddenly caught sight of the end of their journey. As the delicate Maria could not be expected to walk over these burning sands, it was agreed to put her on one of the mules, which Tommy was to lead,

and part of the loading of that mule was to be put on the other mule. In this manner, after they had all said their prayers, and had a proper refreshment, they set forward on their journey over this tremendous desert.

As the sun was violently hot all day, Tommy was terribly fatigued with walking, and poor Maria was not less so with riding; but Senex, though apparently an old man, seemed not in the least tired. When night approached, they stopped to eat some refreshments, and to light a fire to keep off the wild beasts. They then spread a large cloth, and laid themselves down on it to rest.

SURROUNDED BY WILD BEASTS. P. 37.

CROSSING THE DESERTS WITH THE ARABS. P. 46.

About midnight they were awakened with the hideous roarings of lions, tigers, and other wild beasts, who roam about in the night over those horrid deserts, seeking something to devour. Poor Maria was ready to expire with fear, nor was her brother in a much better situation, both saying their prayers, and taking a tender farewell of each other.

"This is not what I expected from you, my dear children, (said Senex to them, rather in an angry tone,) after what you have experienced, and what I assured you would be the assistance that God would give you. You may look at these wild beasts with the utmost serenity and composure; for God has shut their mouths,

so that they cannot hurt you; and you even see that they cannot get near you, but all keep at a certain distance."

As Senex had never before spoken to them but in the sweetest and softest accents, the stern manner in which he now addressed them was more terrible to them than their fears of the wild beasts; for they loved and adored Senex, and would have died rather than offend him. Tommy begged pardon both for himself and his sister, and promised in future no more to be alarmed at whatever might happen. It was, indeed, curious to see these furious wild beasts fly round in a kind of circle, without being able to approach within ten yards of our Little Wanderers.

My pretty readers have perhaps seen the wild beasts in the Tower of London, where they are confined in cages, and in some measure made tame by being constantly fed; but Master Tommy and his sister now saw these wild creatures in all their native ferocity, jumping over each other, opening their wide and hungry jaws in a most hideous manner, and making the ground resound with the lashings of their tails. The young orphans no longer beheld this noble scene with terror and affright, but seemed rather to enjoy it, though they could not help clinging close to Senex.

"Young people should accustom themselves (said Senex) to view danger without

terror and affright; for it is in the moment of danger that every sense and faculty are necessary to protect us. By suffering our senses to be lost in fear, we expose ourselves not only to the present danger, but easily become a prey to the weakest enemy that may afterwards attack us. How many, when their houses have been on fire, in their terror and affright, have rushed into the midst of the flames, which, had they not suffered affright to destroy their senses, they might have easily avoided."

CHAPTER VI.

THE wild beasts, having all night pranced around them in this manner, as soon as the day began to break retired to their dens and caverns, and left our travellers to pursue their journey.

In this manner they travelled near two months, having no other guide to direct them, than the course of the sun by day, and the stars by night. By this time the two mules were dead, and provisions began to grow scarce. Poor Tommy's feet

were terribly blistered by walking so much on the burning sands of this desert: and what added to their difficulties was the death of the two mules, as they were now not only obliged to carry their own provision, but even to support poor Miss Maria, who was unable to walk over such heavy sands.

During ten weeks, the time they had already travelled over this inhospitable place, they had not met one human creature, from whom they might obtain any intelligence which way to take, in order to reach the place they were in pursuit of. One day, as they were sitting down to refresh themselves on the last supply they had left of their provisions, they saw a

parcel of men galloping on horses at a little distance: these were a tribe of wandering Arabs, who traverse these vast deserts, in order to plunder the caravans and passengers which sometimes pass that way, and, when they meet with the least resistance, put every soul to death.

The Arabs having at a distance caught sight of our Little Wanderers, set their horses on a full gallop, and rode up to them with their swords drawn, not doubting that a good booty was at hand. When they came up to the spot, the Arabs were surprised to find only an old man and two children. In the mean time Tommy and his sister were stealing a silent and farewell kiss of each other; for though they

doubted not that these robbers would soon put an end to their misfortunes, yet they dared not to let Senex see the fears that possessed them.

Great, indeed, was the astonishment of our little orphans, when, on the Arabs coming up to them with uplifted swords, they heard Senex accost them in their own language as familiarly as if he had been long an inhabitant among them. "What sort of a man must Senex be, (said Tommy to his sister softly,) who commands the beasts of the deserts, and can speak all languages? This, surely, must be an angel sent from heaven to guide and direct us!"

The Arabs, finding what they had overtaken were only poor and defenceless travellers, put up their swords and fell into conversation with Senex, with whose wisdom and knowledge they seemed highly delighted. They then informed Senex that the route they found he had taken must have been over the desert of Zaara; that he must have passed through Nubia, part of Abyssinia, and that he was now entering Arabia; but that he was still at a very great distance from any town or village.

The Arabs then dismounted, and surrounding Tommy and his dear sister, gazed on them with wonder and admiration, at the same time shewing marks

of the most tender pity, that two such sweet youths should be so early in life exposed to so many dangers. The Arabs then spread a cloth, and produced such nice refreshments as our Little Wanderers had not tasted for some weeks, and indeed some delicious fruits, such as they had never partook of before. Tommy and his sister now returned to God the most sincere and unfeigned thanks.

After the repast was over, which was not only a refreshing, but a merry one, the chief of the Arab party proposed to Senex, that he and his Little Wanderers should get upon their horses behind some of them, and ride with them till they

happened to arrive at some sea-port town resorted to by Christian vessels. This proposal was cheerfully accepted and thus for the present the misfortunes of our Little Wanderers seemed to be at an end.

In this manner they continued the life of wandering Arabs for three months; and though they were obliged to be witnesses of the plunder of two caravans of immense riches, yet they had the satisfaction to recollect, that the interposition of Senex always prevented their destroying any lives. Once in particular, the chief of the Arabs having lifted up his sword, in order to kill at one stroke the

captain of a caravan guard, Senex instantly lifted up his hand, when the sword dropped from the Arab as though his hand had been struck useless.

CHAPTER VII.

SENEX and our Little Wanderers were carried about by the Arabs from place to place, till they at last arrived within sight of a sea-port town, situated on the shores of the Red Sea. Here, the Arab chief told Senex, he would probably meet with some Christian vessel that would carry them to an European settlement. The Arabian chief, however, dared not to go too near the town, since, should he and his party be taken, death would be their inevitable lot. He therefore set

down Senex and the Orphans at a few miles distance, and then took a most affectionate leave of them.

Our travellers then walked to the city, and took up their residence at a public inn, the Arabs having generously supplied Senex with a large sum of money. However, they had not been here above a day or two, before they were all three arrested; Tommy and his sister were sent to one jail, and Senex to another. It seemed, that a person who had been robbed by the Arab party, while Senex and the orphans were in their company, now knew them again, and laid an information against them.

This was the most terrible stroke our pretty Wanderers had yet felt: they were not only locked up in a nauseous prison, on the walls of which were painted all the horrible engines of torture and death; but what was worse than all, they were separated from their dear friend Senex, who supported them under every calamity that had hitherto befallen them.

The next day they were all three brought up before the Governor of the town, when the poor Wanderers were again happy to see their dear Senex, even in the disagreeable situation he was then placed. The trial began, and Senex and his orphans were clearly proved to have been in the company of the plundering Arabs;

they were, therefore, convicted, and sentence passed on them, which was within the course of an hour to have their heads cut off, and stuck on poles on the city gates. The Little Wanderers now looked full in the face of Senex; and, as he appeared perfectly composed, the poor dears endeavoured, as well as they could, to imitate him.

As they were leading out to execution, they were met by the Captain of the caravan guard, whose life Senex had so miraculously saved. The Captain immediately recollected the little company, and particularly the old and venerable Senex: he therefore ordered them to be brought back; and from the account he gave the

Governor, and the able defence made by Senex, which evidently shewed that they were not public plunderers, but unfortunate travellers, they were not only pardoned, but most honourably dismissed.

"You see, my dear children, (said Senex to the orphans,) how prevalent is truth, which, though it may for a while be obscured, will at last shine forth with all its native lustre. The miraculous care Providence has hitherto taken of you, ought to claim your greatest confidence, and induce you contentedly to struggle with whatever difficulties may oppose your return to England."

While they were waiting in hopes of

the arrival of some European ship to take them back to their native country, a proclamation was issued throughout the whole province, that whereas the great king of that part of Arabia lay dangerously ill of a sore leg, which had already begun to mortify, notice was thereby given, that if any one would undertake, and really cure the same, he should be honoured with the highest post in the kingdom, and all his friends and relations raised to an exalted elevation; but that if the king died, he should submit to have his head cut off, and all his friends and relations should be banished from that province.

The king's leg being deemed incurable by all his own surgeons and physicians,

no one was hardy enough to hazard his own head, and the ruin of his family and relations, on so hopeless a business. Senex, however, was determined to try his skill, and cure the king. He accordingly hastened to the palace, accompanied with his two pretty orphans, and tendered his services.

The king, who was a sensible and good man, was struck with the appearance of Senex and his Little Wanderers: he reminded Senex of the dangerous experiment he was going to make, and, seeing the little probability there was of a cure, advised him not to endanger his own life, and the felicity of those pretty youths.

Senex, however, persisted, and the event was submitted to trial. Senex and the king must now both live or both die together.

CHAPTER VIII.

SENEX, after dressing the king's leg, had no doubt of soon making a cure of it. He instantly stopped the progress of the mortification; in two or three days the king could walk about his palace, and in less than a fortnight, to the wonder and astonishment of every one, he made a perfect cure of him.

King Sapiens, for that was his majesty's name, frequently conversed with Senex while he was performing the cure, and was

astonished to find, that he was not only a wonderful surgeon and physician, but that he was also a most able statesman, and understood the laws, manners, and customs of most nations. He therefore most cheerfully fulfilled the promise he had made of making him his prime minister. As to Master Tommy, he was appointed to the office of under-secretary, and Miss Maria was made first maid of honour to the queen.

Senex no sooner took possession of his office, than he set about reforming all the abuses in the state, and making wise regulations for its future government. As he found there was a great number of poor people, who lived in the most deplorable

manner for want of employment, he set them about cutting down the woods, while he employed others in building small vessels with the timber. Others he employed in the cultivation of lands, which had hitherto lain neglected, and by these means brought a great trade to the port for various articles; so that, in short, there was hardly an idle hand to be seen throughout the province, and every tongue was lavish in praising the name of Senex.

Master Tommy and his sister were now perfectly happy. Tommy accompanied Senex in all his excursions, and from him learned humanity and virtue. He pointed out to him the various arts by which men deceive and betray, and gave him

many opportunities of observing how dangerous it is to listen to the insinuating voice of flattery, and how much more fatal it is to give ourselves up to our passions. As to Miss Maria, she was the constant attendant on the queen, and was herself dressed like a little empress.

While all these improvements were going on, Senex was one day sent for to court to sit in judgement on ten robbers and their chief, who had long infested the neighbouring desert, and plundered many of the richest caravans. Senex had no sooner taken his seat in judgement, and the prisoners brought before him, than he immediately recollected the faces of these unhappy people, who were the very same

that had so generously treated him and his Little Wanderers.

Senex put off the trial, ordered the irons to be taken off the prisoners, and every kind of refreshment to be given them. He then immediately went to the king, and thus addressed him: "O great King! how can I sit in judgement on the lives of these men, to whose humanity I owe my own, as well as those of my two dear orphans? They came up with us in the deserts of Zaara, at a time when all our provisions were exhausted, and we knew not which way to steer. They neglecred their own interest to serve ours, and conducted us safe into your territories. These men are not robbers from principle, but

necessity; and it is the mismanagement of your former ministers, who, by oppressing your people beyond what they could bear, have compelled them to become plunderers. Pardon these men, find them employment, and instead of being a nuisance to the state, they will become a part of your most useful subjects."

King Sapiens listened to such prudent advice, and left Senex to act what part he pleased in this business. Senex, accompanied by Master Tommy and his sister, went themselves to relieve these generous Arabs from prison, and they all spent the day together in the most innocent joy and festivity. To Achmet, who was their chief, he gave the superintendence of

the imports and exports, and of every thing relating to trade and commerce, which he executed with that wisdom and integrity, that did honour to himself and his employer. All his followers were employed in different departments under him.

CHAPTER IX.

THROUGH the wisdom of Senex, and the assistance of Achmet, the country in a few years assumed quite a new face; not a beggar was to be seen throughout all the kingdom, and the caravans and passengers traversed the deserts with as much safety as the public streets. The name of King Sapiens was respected in every quarter of the East, his ports were crowded with foreign ships, and the laws and police of the country were happily settled.

Senex being one day seated with the pretty Wanderers in an alcove in the royal gardens, he thus addressed them :—" As you have now, Master Tommy, reached the age of twenty, I shall in future speak to you as Mr. Graceful. During our stay here, I have thrown every thing in your way that could contribute to the improvement of your mind, and to make you sensible of the various dispositions of the human heart, in order to enable you to conduct yourselves properly in the commerce of this world. Be not allured by the pomp and parade of courts; for nothing is more uncertain than the duration of royal favours. Think, therefore, only of the means of returning to your native country, the land of freedom, where, as

private persons, you will enjoy more real and certain felicity than you can promise yourselves here, even should you be able to maintain your present exalted station."

Mr. Graceful and his pretty sister, when Senex mentioned a renewal of their journeys, trembled at the recollection of what they had already suffered; and to leave their present happy situation to encounter new dangers, appeared to them grievous. However, they were so wholly devoted to Senex that they agreed to every thing he proposed.

Senex then acquainted the King with his wish to return with the orphans to their native country. His majesty was

exceedingly unwilling to part with a man who had been of such infinite service to him and his country, and offered every temptation in his power to detain him; but when he found all his offers were to no purpose, he gave him and our Wanderers permission to depart.

Achmet, whom we have already mentioned, having shewn uncommon attention to the duties of his office, and to a great share of skill and knowledge having added the most unblemished integrity, was appointed to succeed Senex; and all the followers of Achmet were likewise advanced to some important post. It was the wish of Senex to make such an arrangement in the different departments of

state, as might leave king Sapiens no room to regret his absence.

The day arrived on which Senex and our Wanderers were to embark for Europe in a large vessel which the King had procured and fitted up, in order to carry them to the northern extremity of the Red Sea. In their way to the ship they were attended by the king, queen, and all the great lords and ladies of the court, who on this account appeared in deep mourning: the tradesmen shut up their shops, and lamentations were heard in every quarter of the city. A stranger would have supposed that some dreadful calamity indeed, little less than total destruction, had fallen on this place.

The King had ordered not only the choicest wines and provisions to be put on board, but also immensely valuable presents in gold, silver, and jewels. The parting was a moving scene. The queen held the sweet Maria locked fast in her arms, while they bedewed each other with their mutual tears, nor was it without some degree of violence they were separated. In the mean time, Senex had hold of one of the king's hands, and Mr. Graceful grasped the other. "I leave you, Sire, (said Senex) with regret, but I will venture to foretel, that the remainder of your reign will be happy, and Achmet will leave you no room to regret my absence."—They let go each other's hands at the same instant; but what

words can express their looks? for the power of speech had forsaken them! Senex hastened to the ship, and Mr. Graceful and his sister followed him; the ship sailed, and their longing eyes at last lost sight of the shore.

CHAPTER X.

If it were with regret that our Wanderers lost sight of the shore, those on shore were no less anxious to see the last of a vessel that carried in it such valuable treasure. The voyage was pleasing, and on reaching the northern extremity of the Red Sea, they there found an elegant caravan, which the good king Sapiens had sent, to carry them by land to the port of Jerusalem.

On their arrival there, they found a

Genoese vessel ready to sail for a port in Italy, which our Wanderers considered as a very lucky circumstance: they accordingly embarked in it; the winds were favourable, and every thing promised an agreeable and prosperous voyage. But, alas! we mortals know not what is in store for us.

The Algerines were at that time at war with the Genoese, and the Mediterranean sea was covered with the African corsairs. Our unfortunate Wanderers were within sight of the Italian shore, when a corsair discovered them, bore down on them, took them, and carried them into Algiers.

How terrible was their situation! What

an alarming reverse of fortune! "Have courage, my dear Wanderers, (said Senex, with a countenance perfectly composed,) and leave every thing to Providence: this event will contribute to convince you, that we ought not to set our minds particularly on any thing in this life; but look forward to a life which will have no end, and where neither cares nor disappointments can reach us."

Recollect yourselves, my sweet pretty readers, and I am sure you will remember, that your little mouths have often watered at the tempting looks of some pie or tart; but after having had permission given you to partake of it, you have no sooner taken off the lid, than you have found it dry

and good for nothing: so it is in the commerce of human life; we frequently teaze and vex ourselves to obtain those things, which no sooner come into our possession, than we find them insignificant, or at least not worth half the pains we took to acquire them.

But let us return to our unfortunate Wanderers, who were no sooner landed, than all their valuable effects were sold by auction, and Senex, Mr. Graceful, and his dear sister, were condemned to slavery. Senex pleaded that they were natives of England, and had therefore a right of protection; but, as they were taken on board a Genoese vessel, this argument had no force.

SOLD FOR SLAVES AT ALGIERS. P. 74.

SENEX TRANSFORMED. P. 88.

Senex bore this terrible misfortune with a manly fortitude; and Mr. Graceful dared not, while Senex was in the same situation with himself, to act otherwise. As to poor Miss Maria, she cried sadly, to think she should be thus stripped of all her valuables at once; and, what was worse, be reduced from the state of little less than a queen, to become a slave. Senex, however, by his never failing eloquence, soon brought her to be calm and composed.

Senex and our Wanderers were immediately carried to the market, where the African princes and gentry came to view the new captives. One of the princes was struck with the noble appearance of

Senex, and the pleasing countenance of Mr. Graceful: he conversed with them, and finding they were masters of all the sciences, and that Senex could speak all languages fluently, he gave the captain a great price for them, and took them to his palace, to assist in the education of the young princes.

It fortunately happened for Maria, that the queen of Algiers happened to pass by the market at the time the captives were exposed to sale. The beauty and majestic countenance of this lovely creature could not escape the notice of the queen, who purchased her at the captain's own price, and took her home with her in her own coach, declaring she was the most lovely

European captive that had ever been seen in Africa.

Though Senex and our Wanderers had met with much better fortune than they could have expected, for which they were very thankful to God, yet the separation of Mr. Graceful from his dear sister was a heart-breaking consideration. They hung upon each other's neck, and cried bitterly, nor could they be separated, till they obtained a promise that they should be sometimes indulged with an interview. I hope all my pretty little readers, who have brothers and sisters, love each other as well as Mr. Graceful and Miss Maria did; for nothing is more amiable than the affectionate regard which brothers and

sisters usually do, and always ought to feel for each other; while, on the contrary, quarrelling and ill-will among them are disgraceful to themselves and distressing to all who are concerned in their welfare.

CHAPTER XI.

It was an afflicting sight to behold the venerable Senex and our lovely Wanderers thus loaded with irons, and exposed as slaves in a market-place for sale. But I have already told you how happily they were disposed of; and setting aside the consideration of having lost all their effects, they felt nothing of the condition of slaves, and retained only that name.

The young African princes made wonderful progress in the different sciences

under the tuition of Senex and Mr. Graceful; and, as Senex knew he should not long continue with them, he drew up such a plan for their future education, as in the end made them the greatest scholars on the whole African continent: in the mean time Miss Maria so engaged the affections of the queen of Algiers, that she herself lived almost in a state of royalty.

Six months passed in this agreeable manner, and Mr. Graceful and sweet Miss Maria began to listen with coolness to the steps Senex told them he was taking to procure their release, and take them back to their native country.

He again reproached them in a tender manner for preferring the gaieties and luxuries of a barbarous nation to breathing the air of freedom in their native country: they were again all submission to the will of their pious conductor, and were ready to act as he pleased.

As Senex was at full liberty to walk about any part of Algiers, he found it no very difficult matter to ingratiate himself with the English Consul resident there. To him Senex made known all his adventures, and fully satisfied the Consul that he and our Wanderers were British subjects. As the captives were in such high favour at court, the Consul thought it prudent not to go too hastily into the matter.

At first the Consul only acquainted the King, that his favourite captives were British subjects, and as such claimed his protection. His majesty seemed uneasy at this information, being unwilling to part with such favourite slaves. After some time the Consul grew more warm, and like a true Englishman boldly declared, that, if the captives were not instantly set at liberty, the British cannon should shake Algiers to its very foundation.

This language was too forcible to be resisted, and Senex and our Wanderers were declared free British subjects, and at perfect liberty to quit that kingdom whenever they should please.

The Queen, however, begged they would continue with them one month longer, which Senex readily consented to, and spent a great part of that time in procuring proper tutors to finish that education, of which he had so wisely laid the plan. By this time, Mr. Graceful and his sweet sister had made the Algerines so sensible of the superiority of the British manufactures, as proved in the end of infinite service to England.

The day of their departure being arrived, they embarked on board an English ship of war, then bound for England. The Queen took the most affectionate leave of the amiable Maria, and the King and Princes seriously lamented

the departure of Senex and Mr Graceful. Almost every African lord made them some present, and the Queen was lavish in her gifts to Maria; so that they were now much richer than when they first entered the port.

The signal was made for sailing, the sails were spread to the wind, and the British captain saluted the forts as he passed, which, in honour to Senex and our Wanderers, was answered with a triple discharge of all the artillery from every fort. The Wanderers contemplated their return to England with delight; and wondered that they had for a moment wished to continue their residence among so uncivilized a people as the Algerines,

although so kindly treated by the King and Queen. The voyage was short and agreeable, and in less than the usual time Senex and our Wanderers, with all their baggage, were safely landed at Dover.

Thus happily ended the misfortunes and calamities of our amiable Wanderers, after having been absent from their native country almost nine years.

My pretty little readers, so long as you continue to fear God, and to rely upon his protection, he will not fail to support you under every trying calamity, and will, sooner or later, most certainly amply reward your perseverance. It is cowardice to cringe in the face of danger, when it

is our duty boldly to oppose it; but it is madness and folly to expose ourselves to dangers when neither our duty nor interest require it.

CHAPTER XII.

As it was late in the evening when Senex and our Wanderers landed, they took only a moderate refreshment, and then retired to their separate apartments. Before it was well day-light the next morning, Senex called up Mr. Graceful and his sister, and, with an air of authority he had never before appeared to put on, told them to follow him.

Our two Wanderers were at a loss to account for this conduct; but they fol-

lowed him, without even asking him a reason. Senex led them to the summit of the cliffs, and then turning about suddenly, said to them, "Look at me attentively."

Our Wanderers did so, and suddenly the old face of Senex changed into that of the most blooming virgin; his old garment fell off, and displayed a long robe, white as snow, which flowed in the wind, and discovered an arm as fair as alabaster; a pair of pluming wings, the colour of the robe, and tipped with gold, sprung from his shoulders. Mr. Graceful and his sister could no longer withstand this sight, but fell prostrate at his feet.

"Fear not, my dear youths, (said the Angel, for it was no longer Senex,) for though I shall now soon become invisible to you, yet I shall continue to be your guardian angel, and watch over all your actions. Be thankful to Heaven by whose commands I have attended you, to frustrate the base designs of your wicked guardian. It was I who saved you from the wreck in the cavern of the rocks, where angels, unknown to you, brought you your provisions. I suffered you to be exposed to hardships on the deserts of Zaara, that I might make you sensible of the calamities of life, and that in such situations you ought to rest only on God.

"I saw, while you enjoyed the luxury and ease of the Arabian court, that your youthful hearts had forgotten all your past misfortunes, grew in love with finery and parade, and thought no more of your native country; it was for this reason I suffered you to be taken prisoners, and exposed in the slave-market by the African rovers; but I softened the hearts of the Queen and Princes of that court in your favour.

"Nor is it you alone who have received important advantages from my mission, since a whole Arabian nation have by me been brought into the love of good and wholesome laws, and thousands of poor

mortals, yet unborn, will have cause to bless the borrowed name of Senex.

"Go, hasten to London, where you will find your cruel guardian in the agonies of death, deploring your unhappy fate. A long suffering of horror and remorse has atoned for his crimes in this world, and he will expire in peace, when he shall find that you are still living to close his eyes. Farewell, my dear youths; fear God, and persevere in the paths of virtue."

The Angel now ceasing to speak, and our Wanderers hearing something like the fluttering of wings, they lifted up their heads, but their divine conductor had

vanished. After having thanked God for his goodness to them, they rose, embraced each other, and as soon as they had descended the cliff they rode post to London, where, as the Angel had told them, they found their guardian on his death-bed.

The meeting was too affecting to admit of description; I shall therefore only observe, that their guardian died the next day; and as he had neither wife nor children, he left all his estate, which was very considerable, to our Wanderers, who were now, by the addition of what they brought with them from Africa, in the possession of a princely fortune.

Mr. Graceful married an amiable young lady, who had more merit than fortune; and Miss Maria changed her name to that of a deserving young gentleman, a relation of her brother's lady. They retired into the country, having purchased two magnificent houses in the neighbourhood of each other, where they lived highly respected by all the neighbouring gentry, and had the prayers of all the poor people for miles round them. They lived to bring up a numerous offspring, who were taught all those virtues and graces, which render little Misses and Masters so amiable in the eyes of all good and wise people.

THE END.

ADVERTISEMENT.

1. SHORT STORIES, in Words of Two Syllables. By the Author of "Short Stories in One Syllable,"—"Godmother's Tales,"—"Cup of Sweets." Miniature Quarto, half-bound, with Eight Engravings.

2. THE TRAVELLER; or, an Entertaining Journey round the Habitable Globe: being a novel and easy Method of studying Geography. Illustrated with Forty-two Plates, consisting of Views of the principal Capital Cities of the World, and the Costume of its various Inhabitants.

3. THE WELCOME VISITOR; or, the Good Uncle: being a Collection of Stories.—"Some were true accounts of what had really happened, some were stories that he had read or heard, and some were the production of his own imagination." Price 2s. 6d. half-bound.

4. BIRDS ON THE WING; or, Pleasant Tales and Useful Hints on the Value and Right Use of Time. By Miss Parker. Price 2s. 6d. half-bound.

5. STORIES from the HISTORY of SCOTLAND; intended as a Companion to "Stories from the History of England." Price 2s. 6d. half-bound.

6. STORIES from the HISTORY of FRANCE; upon the same plan as the preceding. Price 2s. 6d. half-bound.

7. NURSERY MORALS, in Monosyllables. Half-bound. Price 2s. 6d. without Cuts; 3s. 6d. with Twenty-four Plates, plain; and 4s. 6d. coloured. By the Author of "Always Happy," &c. &c.

8. THE VISIT TO THE BAZAAR; illustrated with Thirty-two Plates. Price 3s. plain, and 4s. coloured.

Printed by S. and R. BENTLEY,
Dorset Street, Fleet Street, London.